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Proceedings of the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S., Indianapolis Meeting, August, 1890.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21st.

The President, Dr. N. L. Britton, in the chair, Dr. C. R. Barnes, Secretary.

Dr. Britton spoke on "The Present State of Systematic Botany in North America," alluding to the great amount of investigation now being done at the several centers of work, the increasing number of specialists and the general satisfactory condition of the science.

Mr. Fernow remarked on his new check-list of North American trees, the nomenclature based for the most part on the recent writings of Professor Sargent and compiled by Mr. Sudworth. The list will give both scientific and common names; in the compilation of the latter he asked the assistance of botanists all over the country.

Mr. C. M. Weed exhibited specimens of *Actinella acaulis* from Lakeside, Ohio, where it appears to be native. This greatly extends the range of the plant to the East. Professor Bessey stated that it occurred in Nebraska on hill-tops.

Mr. Weed also read a paper on "The Milky Juices of Plants as a Protection against Insect Borers." He had found this hold true in many plants, but *Lactuca Canadensis* seemed to be an exception. Professor Burrill said that the same fact had been reported to him from Greece in the case of the fig, *Ficus Indica*, the plant being artificially slashed to prevent insect depredations.

Professor Beal described small tubers detected by him on the roots of *Ceanothus Americanus*. Professor Burrill remarked that it would be interesting if these should prove to have the same functions attributed to the tubercles borne so abundantly in the Leguminosæ. Dr. Britton called attention to an observation by Dr. Thurber on the occurrence of tubers on *Rhexia*.

Professor Burrill remarked on the genus *Bacterium*, maintaining that it should be recognized as valid.

FRIDAY, AUG. 22.

Mr. B. D. Galloway presented a paper by Miss Effie A.

Southworth on "A New Hollyhock Disease," caused by the hitherto undescribed fungus *Colletotrichium Althææ.*

Professor Scribner remarked on "The Nature of the Palea and Lodicules in Grasses."

The conclusions drawn were:

1. That the palea are two-keeled prophylla which begin the floral branch, and like those of the culm-branches, stand with their backs toward the main axis or rhachilla of the spikelet; when the flower is carried back on to the rhachilla the palea is wanting.

2. The lodicules are true scales, in that they belong to the epidermal system, and their sole function is to separate the glumes in anthesis, as the special epidermal development in the axils of the panicle-branches serves to diverge these during the same period by pressing against the axis from which the branches arise.

Professor Lazenby called attention to two marked forms of the Virginia Creeper, *Vitis* (*Ampelopsis*) *quinquefolia*, one of which clings readily to houses and other structures, while the other does not. The clinging one appears to be native in Indiana and Ohio, while the other is there only found in cultivation. Remarks were made by Professors Beal, Bastin and Claypole.

Prof. L. H. Pammel read a paper on "Pollination of the Genus *Æsculus.*"

Professor Campbell remarked on "Adventive Buds of *Lycopodium lucidulum*," on "The Archegonia of Ferns," and on "The Germination of the Spores and the Prothallia of *Osmunda.*"

The President appointed as a Committee on Nominations of Officers for the next meeting, Professor Wilson, Mr. Coville and Professor Spaulding.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25th.

Mr. F. V. Coville remarked on his descriptive list of the *Junci* of Texas; it includes seventeen species, one of which is Texan only, (*J. filipendulus*), fourteen range to the northeast and two are found in the Rocky Mountains. Mr. Coville also exhibited a serviceable collecting knife, the "cotton knife" of the South, which he especially recommended for the collection of subterranean parts of plants. Professor Beal spoke of the importance of the root-stocks of grasses as diagnostic characters, and remarked on their poor representation in herbaria.

Professor Arthur described several pieces of apparatus for the investigation of phenomena of vegetable physiology, illustrated by drawings. The subject was discussed by Professor McBride, Mr. W. H. Seaman, Professor Bessey and Professor Spaulding.

Mr. Coville reported on the progress of the Botanical Exchange Club under the direction of the Division of Botany of the United States Department of Agriculture, stating that some five thousand specimens are now in hand.

Professor Claypole read a paper on "Plant Colonists at Akron, Ohio," alluding to *Conium maculatum*, *Tragopogon porrifolius*, *Artemisia vulgaris* and *Cnicus arvensis*, both sterile and fertile plants of the latter being found, and *Lactuca Scariola*. Professor Burrill remarked on the scarcity of fertile plants of *Cnicus arvensis* in Illinois, and Dr. Britton stated that they were also rare in New Jersey and Southern New York. Professor Arthur reported that *Dysodia chrysanthemoides* and *Iva xanthiifolia* were steadily migrating eastward along the railroads. Dr. Britton reported *Leontodon hirtus* as recently found at several points in New Jersey and New York, and *Crepis pulchra* introduced along the railroad at Culpepper, Virginia. Both of these European species demand admission into our text-books of systematic botany. Mr. Blatchley stated that *Solanum rostratum* had been found in Indiana, an immigrant from the southwest. Fugitive specimens of the latter have also been picked up in New York and New Jersey.

In the afternoon the club enjoyed an excursion tendered by the Local Committee of Arrangements, to a series of ravines known as the "Shades of Death," situated about fifty miles from Indianapolis, and reached by the I., D. & W. R. R., which generously provided a special train for the transportation of the members. Despite the somewhat forbidding name of the locality it proved to be of much botanical interest, and a delightful trip was experienced. At an informal meeting on the grounds, the President appointed Professors Bastin, Wilson and Bessey a committee to draw suitable resolutions of thanks to the local committee and the superintendent of the I., D. and W. R. R.

TUESDAY, AUG. 26th.

Professor Halsted reported a double-flowered form of *Convolvulus sepium*, and a probable hybrid of *Tragopogon pratensis* × *T. porrifolius* from New Brunswick, N. J. He also stated that the pollen of *Epilobium palustre* var. *oliganthum* is interestingly different from that of any other species of the genus in having the four grains produced in each mother cell, remain united in a quadrate mass and are only separated by prolonged teasing. The individual grains are large, as they noticeably are in the genus, and the groups are therefore remarkably conspicuous. When taken from the stigma they usually exhibit tubes proceeding one from each of the four grains. That the plant common and that the quadrate pollen masses make fine objects for the microscope are the excuses for mentioning the peculiarity not often met with elsewhere. In this species it seems to be constant. In the absence of Prof. Halsted his communications were presented by the Secretary.

Professor McBride stated that he thought other species of *Epilobium* shared the same structure.

A paper by Miss E. Porter—" Notes on Spore Discharge of Ascomycetes," was read by the Secretary. It contained observations on this process in species of *Pleospora.*

Mr. H. L. Bolley read a paper on " Potatoe Scab a Bacterial Disease," illustrated by specimens and drawings. Prof. Burrill stated that the investigation conducted by Mr. Bolley would lead to some of the most valuable results reached for many years in the study of vegetable pathology.

The committee appointed to nominate officers for the next meeting of the club reported as follows:

President, Mr. Wm. M. Canby, of Wilmington, Del.

Vice-President, Prof. Lucien M. Underwood, of Syracuse, N. Y.

Secretary, Mr. B. D. Galloway, of Washington, D. C.

The nominees were unanimously elected.

The President then declared the club adjourned, to meet next year at Washington, D. C.